A L S A G E R U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st. December, 1965.

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

A. Jamieson M.R.S.H.
M.P.H.I.A.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Alsager Urban District Council,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District for the year 1965.

There has been a further substantial increase in the estimated population of some 530 and this now stands at 9660.

A further 49 houses were completed during the year compared with 134 in 1964.

I share very much the concern expressed by our Public Health Inspector over the inadequacy and danger at the sewage works and the Refuse Tip. Attention was drawn to this in the Report last year. As far as the Sewage Works are concerned we must press for an early decision from the Ministry. As far as our own Refuse Tip is concerned I would like to see a safe and proper system instituted as quickly as possible.

Coronary Disease of the heart accounts for the largest single number of deaths. This reflects the National figures where this disease causes more deaths than any other condition, probably 60,000 per annum. I have in previous Annual Reports gone into the various theories as to why in recent years there should be this big increase. There is no doubt that a variety of factors play their part such as overeating and excess of starchy foods, smoking, but most important of all lack of sufficient regular daily exercise.

In recent months new developments are taking place in the treatment of Coronary Thrombosis which in some medical units can reduce the mortality by 30%. There are many instances in this disease where a relatively small thrombosis causes the heart to stop beating. In the U.S.A. certain medical units have been established labelled Intensive Cardiac Care Units where if the patient can be got there quickly the heart could be restarted by electrical means and life restored. These units would have to be linked with Ambulance Teams of first aid practitioners who are trained in external cardiac massage and mouth breathing.

I think our Regional Hospital Boards should give consideration to the establishment of such Units. I know a great deal of training and expense would be involved but if thousands of valuable lives could be saved each year this would more than justify the expense. There are one or two units already established in this Country but this service should be made available to all if possible.

Measles continues to be the most prevalent of the infectious diseases common in the Country. 162 cases were notified in the year under review.

We have now got available an effective and safe vaccine. At the present time our Ministry of Health have made it available to General Practitioners but have discouraged Local Health Authorities from undertaking mass vaccination. In my view this is an extremely short-sighted policy. The argument against mass vaccination is that measles is mainly non-virulent in character and symptoms are easily controllable by antibiotics. But nevertheless the disease still carries a mortality. It is no consolation to a parent who loses a child through measles that the incidence of death is ten times as less frequent than it was twenty years ago. The expense of treating measles is very considerable, taking up a lot of the Doctors time, and using up enormous amount of drugs. This cost in my view far outweighs the cost of immunisation.

In deciding for or against general vaccination against measles the nuisance value of the disease to the community must be given serious consideration. In our society where with many homes both parents work full time measles may cause serious social and financial disturbance and loss to a family. The upset in schools during a measles epidemic is quite serious. Whole classes can virtually be emptied whilst we continue to pay for a service which cannot be used.

Despite the fact that our Council agreed to the Fluoridation of the water supplies, which was supported by the County Health Committee, the County Council were induced to reject this progressive measure. I need not here go into all the arguments for and against but suffice it to say that for the present good sense and good health have suffered a reverse. The activities of a vociferous minority have succeeded in putting the clock back.

I would like to thank our Clerk, Mr. Heap once more for his courtesy and assistance during the course of my duties. I work closely with Mr. Jamieson and I am grateful to him indeed for all his help and particularly for the contribution he has made to this report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

L. RICH.

Medical Officer of Health.

(The figures in brackets throughout this report are for 1964)

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated population 9660 (9130)

Births		Total		Male		Female	
Live Births	Legitimate	182	(189)	88	(99)	94	(90)
	Illegitimate	4	(5)	1	(3)	3	(2)
Still births	Legitimate	3	(6)	1	(2)	2	(4)
	Illegitimate	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated average population mid. 1965 16.1 (17.8)
Live birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the population 18.1 (18.4)
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 15.8 (30)
Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 total (live and still) births 15.7 (16.3)
Still birth rate per 1,000 total population .3 (.65)

Infantile Mortality

The total number of deaths is shown as follows:-

	Total		Male		Female	
Legitimate	5	(2)	3	(1)	2	(1)
Illegitimate	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)

Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births 26.8 (10.3)
Infantile mortality rate for England and Wales 19 (20)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 27.4 (10.5)
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births - (-)

Deaths

	Total		Male		Female	
Deaths (all ages)	84	(74)	50	(41)	34	(33)

Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population 12.3 (11.7)
Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the population 11.5 (11.3)

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the past year:-

Cause	Total	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	4	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	9	3	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	2	-
Diabetes	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	8	6
Coronary disease, angina	18	15	3
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-	1
Other heart diseases	4	1	3
Other circulatory disease	2	2	-
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	1	1
Bronchitis	8	5	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	2	-	2
Other defined and ill defined diseases	8	5	3
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	2	1	1
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
Total	84	50	34

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes:-

	No. of Deaths	
Puerperal Sepsis	0	(0)
Other Maternal causes	0	(0)

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births 0 (0)

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICE FOR THE AREA

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Health Visitors - Miss H.M. Furness, Clinic Centre, Sandbach Road South, Alsager. Tel. Alsager 3215.

Miss B. Richardson Clinic Centre, Sandbach Road South, Alsager. Tel. Alsager 3215.

Mrs. B.M. Doorbar Clinic Centre, Sandbach Road South, Alsager. Tel. Alsager 3215.

Once again there has been a substantial increase in the number of attendances at the Infant Welfare Clinic.

We have now separated off the immunisation from the regular Infants Welfare Sessions and these figures are not included. A separate monthly Clinic is held where all immunisation and vaccinations are carried out. More time can now be devoted to individual mothers who bring their babies along seeking advice and guidance.

We have an excellent band of voluntary helpers at the Clinic and I am grateful to all of them for the support they give us.

Statistics

	New Cases			Total Attendances			No. of Clinics held	Cases seen by Doctor	Average per Clinic seen by Doctor.
	0-1	1-2	2-5	0-1	1-2	2-5			
Infant Welfare Clinic	208 (203)	- (-)	- (-)	3210 (3177)	838 (755)	511 (509)	103 (98)	521 (984)	10.2 (20)

Special Clinics for under 5

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per Clinic
Ophthalmic Clinic	18 (19)	54 (47)	17 (12)	3.2 (3.9)
E.N.T. Clinic	16 (23)	25 (26)	12 (11)	2.1 (2.3)

Special Clinics for School Children

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per Clinic
Ophthalmic Clinic	17 (39)	118 (276)	12 (12)	9.8 (23)
E.N.T. Clinic	59 (70)	141 (101)	12 (11)	11.7 (9.2)

Preparation Class

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per Clinic
Preparation Class	63 (66)	440 (444)	49 (50)	9 (8.8)

Welfare Foods Sold -- 1965

Distribution Centre	Nat. Dried Milk		A & D Tablets	Cod Liver Oil	Orange Juice
	Full Cream	Half Cream			
Welfare Centre	570 (440)	21 (6)	391 (235)	162 (124)	3913 (2213)
Lawton Road (W.V.S)	85 (158)	- (-)	37 (104)	9 (30)	504 (793)

This work is also done on a Voluntary basis on our behalf by the Members of the W.V.S. and I wish to thank Mrs. Ford the Centre Organiser, and all her helpers for the work they are doing.

Midwifery

Midwife - Mrs. E.L. Pedley - 6, Audley Road, Alsager. Tel. Alsager 583

Once again it is particularly satisfactory to report that a full years work has been achieved without any maternal death.

I would also draw attention to the continued popularity of the Preparation Classes.

Births 1965

Hospital		Home		Private N. Home	
Live	Still	Live	Still	Live	Still
143 (133)	2 (5)	49 (64)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

Home Nursing

The District Nurse for Alsager is - Mrs. E. Weatherall,
27, Cresswellshawe Road,
Alsager.
Tel. Alsager 67.

The Home Nurse works under the direction of the family doctor and looks after patients in their own homes. Because of this many cases who otherwise would have to be admitted to hospital are dealt with at home. This work helps considerably in reducing the strain on the hospitals. Once again it is with pleasure that I have to report that no single complaint was received during the year.

Completed Primary Courses - Persons Under Age 16
(South East Cheshire)

Type of Vaccine	Year of Birth					Others under 16	Total	
	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961-58		At Clinics	By G.P.'s.
Quadruple	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Triple (D/W.C./T.)	394	703	142	63	60	27	589	800
Diphtheria/Whooping Cough	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Diphtheria/Tetanus	-	6	2	1	5	2	12	4
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetanus	-	-	-	6	4	18	5	23
Polio-Salk	-	-	-	3	6	33	-	42
Polio-Sabin	286	833	249	130	267	163	659	1269

Reinforcing Doses - Persons Under Age 16
(South East Cheshire)

Type of Vaccine	Year of Birth					Others under 16	Total	
	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961-58		At Clinics	By G.P.'s.
Quadruple	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Triple (D/W.C./T.)	-	19	49	33	164	39	202	102
Diphtheria/Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria/Tetanus	-	3	8	3	311	77	310	92
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetanus	-	-	1	-	3	5	-	9
Polio-Salk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polio-Sabin	-	8	34	63	698	656	596	863

Smallpox Vaccination - Persons Under Age 16
(South-East Cheshire)

	Year of Birth				Others Under 16	Total	At Clinics	By G.P's.
	1965	1964	1963-61	1960-51				
Vaccinated	30	399	279	29	3	740	420	362
Re-Vaccinated	-	2	10	26	4	42		

Ambulance Service

I am well satisfied with the general turn-out and maintenance of the ambulance.

Domestic Help Service

Statistics relating to the Home Help Service provided during 1965, are as follows:-

Home Helps employed during 1965

Full time	-	(-)
Part time	26	(31)
	26	(31)

Home Helps employed at 31st. December, 1965.

Full time	-	(-)
Part time	16	(15)
	16	(15)

Applications received during 1965

Confinement	3	(8)
Sickness	5	(5)
Others	2	(-)
Aged and Infirm	7	(13)
	17	(26)

Cases attended during 1965

Confinement	4	(8)
Sickness	8	(9)
Others	2	(-)
Aged and Infirm	35	(33)
	49	(50)

Cases receiving attention at 31st. December, 1965.

Confinement	-	(-)
Sickness	4	(7)
Others	1	(-)
Aged and Infirm	26	(24)
	31	(31)

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1965

Disease	Age Distribution												Total	Cases Admtd. to Hosp.
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over		
Measles	8	22	25	22	24	57	3	-	1	-	-	-	162	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-

Tuberculosis

For comparative purposes I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1965 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1956.

Notifications - 1956 to 1965

	1956		1957		1958		1959		1960		1961		1962		1963		1964		1965	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1 - 5																				
5 - 15		2																		
15 - 25	2																			
25 - 35	1						1													
35 - 45																				
45 - 55	1																			
55 - 65							1				1									
65 & over																				
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1 - 5																				
5 - 15				1																
15 - 25																	1			
25 - 35															1					
35 - 45																	1	1		
45 - 55																	1			
55 - 65																		1		
65 & pver																				
Total	4	2	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	-	-

Deaths - 1956 - 1965

	1956		1957		1958		1959		1960		1961		1962		1963		1964		1965	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1 - 5																				
5 - 15																				
15 - 25																				
25 - 35																				
35 - 45	1																			
45 - 55			1																	
55 - 65			1								1						1			
65 & over					1								1							
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1 - 5																				
5 - 15																				
15 - 25																				
25 - 35																				
35 - 45																				
45 - 55																				
55 - 65																				
65 & over																				
Total	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

Cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st. December, 1965, were as follows:-

	Up to 1 yr.	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 & over	Total
Male Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	1	1	9
Female Pulmonary	-	-	-	1	3	1	1	-	-	6
Male Non-Pulmonary	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	4
Female Non-Pulmonary	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	5

Water Supply

This district is supplied with water from Hurleston via a booster station at Gorsty Hill and a 12 inch main from there to link with the 9 inch main at Radway Green. The new 12 inch trunk main from Radway Green to Alsager Lodge was completed during the year, and the new 18 inch trunk main from Alsager Lodge to Alsager Reservoir also completed except for minor interconnections. This supply is supplemented by borehole water delivered from the Board's pumping station at Bearstone in Shropshire.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The two sewage works maintained by the Council are situated at Day Green and Longview. The continual expansion of the district has now reached such proportions that overloading of these works has now become a very serious matter.

The second Ministerial enquiry in respect of proposals for a new sewage works has taken place but as yet no formal approval has been given to the authority to carry out the necessary erection of the most important and urgently required new sewage works. It must be emphasised therefore that unless action is forthcoming in the near future, a very serious problem of the breakdown of this service could result at any time.

It is therefore imperative that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the Council and their Consultants should treat this matter with the utmost urgency.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

A further 49 new dwellings were erected during the year, but the Council still maintained a collection of slightly over eight days. The disposal of refuse is by tipping with a limited amount of control and this gives rise to serious complaints.

It is again necessary to point out the unsatisfactory method which is being employed in the disposal of household refuse and to state that although the Council have agreed in principle to the installation of a pulverisation plant, this has not proceeded as quickly as one would expect. It is therefore necessary for the Council to give this matter their immediate attention, so that notonly can the land be purchased but also the new plant, costs of which should be submitted as soon as possible to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for loan sanction, so that this new plant can be erected and brought into operation as soon as possible.

Food and Drugs

During this period 25 visits have been made to food premises and there appears to be a reasonable standard of food hygiene observed by the traders.

During the year voluntary surrender has taken place of 29 lbs. of various foods.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. 1963.

Complete inspections have been carried out of all premises to which the above Act requires, viz:-

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	1	12	-
Retail shops	1	44	12
Wholesale Shops Warehouses	-	-	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	1	-
Fuel Storage Depots	-	1	-
Totals	2	58	12

Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspector to Registered Premises under theAct. 20

Housing

During the year the Council have received two applications for Standard Grants and one application for a Discretionary Grant, and the amount paid was £475.0.0d. These grants resulted in the undermentioned amenities being provided:-

a) Fixed bath 3

b) Wash Hand basin 3

c) Hot water supply (to any fittings) 3

d) Water Closet (within the dwelling) 3

No applications have been received for Certificates of Disrepair, and no certificates have been issued.

Slaughterhouse Act

There is one private slaughterhouse in the district.

Carcases and offals inspected and condemned in whole or in part, are set out below:-

	Cattle Ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed (if known)	390	29	-	1883	555	-
Number Inspected	390	29	-	1883	555	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	87	15	-	80	32	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	22.3	51.7	-	4.2	5.7	-
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	6	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1	-
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

DISEASES	Weight - Lbs.			
	BEEF	VEAL	MUTTON	PORK
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	76
Parasites and Cysts	615	-	109	13
Angiona	24	-	12	-
Dropsy	-	-	-	-
Emaciation	-	-	-	-
Traumatism	-	-	-	-
Inflation	4	-	-	-
Maribund	-	-	-	-
Immaturity	-	-	-	-
Actinomycosis	-	-	-	-
Pericarditis	-	-	-	-
Peritonitis	-	-	-	-
Pleurisy	66	-	-	125
Pneumonia	22	-	-	-
Septicaemia	11	-	-	-
Pysemia	-	-	-	-
Mammitis	-	-	-	-
Tumours	-	-	-	-
Fever	-	-	-	-
Decomposition	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	15
Abscesses	312	-	-	18
TOTALS	1054	-	121	247

In addition to the above, five butchers shops sell meat which is not slaughtered within the district.

Summary of visits made to Various Premises

Refuse Collection & Disposal	55
Sewerage and Drainage	32
Sewerage Works	35
Water Supply	-
Factories	26
Caravans	-
Food and Drugs	60
Infectious Diseases	3
Public Houses	10
Nuisances	40

FACTORIES

PREMISES	No. on Register	No. of Inspec-tions	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	8	17	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	-	-	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	6	9	2	-
TOTALS	14	26	2	-